

Potato Stocks

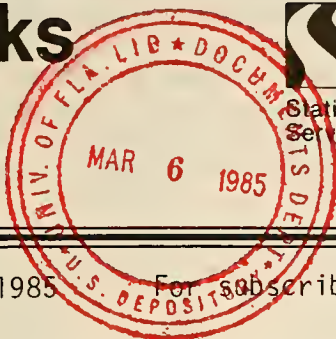


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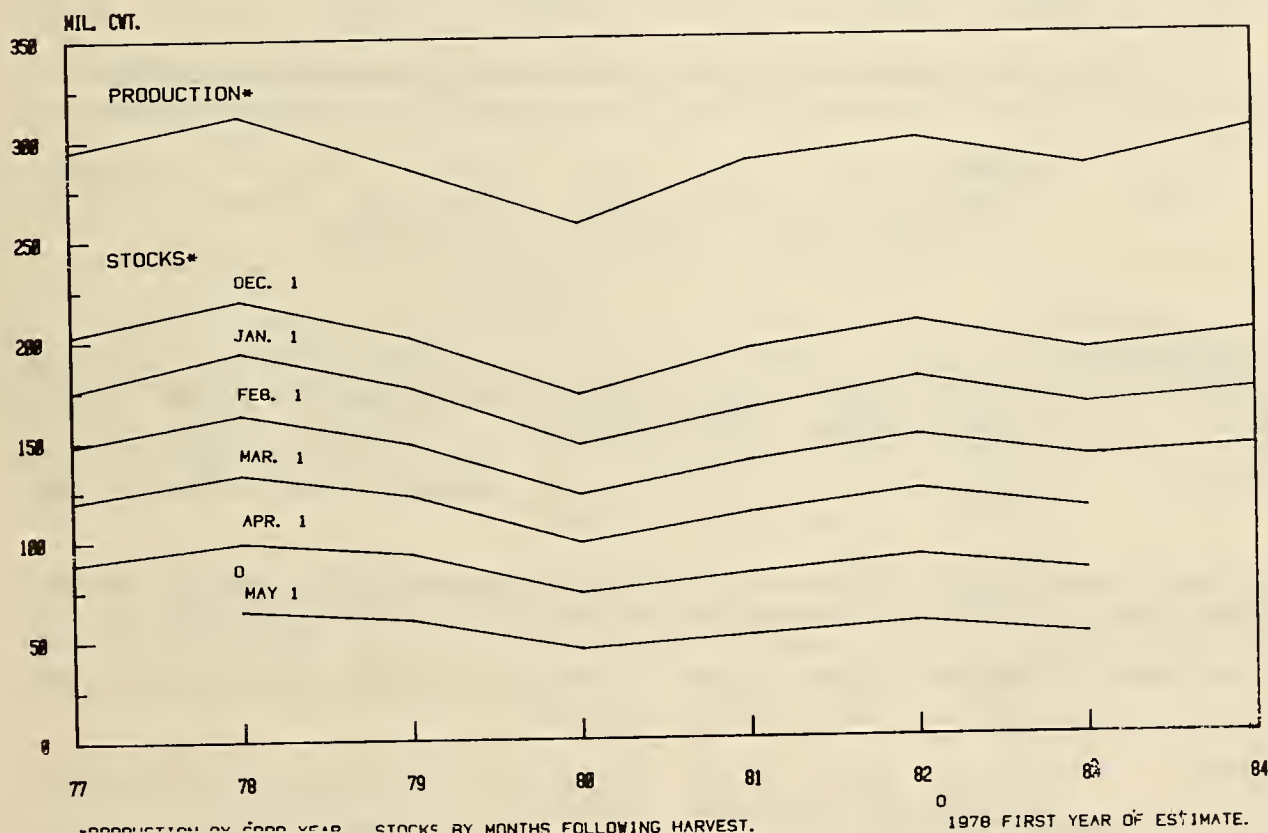


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POTATO STOCKS UP 3 PERCENT

Potato stocks were estimated at 143 million cwt (6.49 million metric tons) on February 1, 1985 in the 15 major storage States. This is up 3 percent from last year, but 5 percent short of two years ago. Variety data from the 11 objective yield States shows 75 percent russets, 22 percent whites and 3 percent reds in storage. The storage total represented 47 percent of fall production this year compared with 49 percent on hand a year ago at this time. (Comments continued on page 4)

FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS (FOR 15 STATES ESTIMATING POTATO STOCKS)



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TABLE 3. FALL POTATOES: PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1984 AND FEBRUARY 1, 1985

STATE	:	CROP OF 1983			:	CROP OF 1984		
	:	:	TOTAL	FEB 1	:	:	TOTAL	FEB 1
	:	PRODUCTION:	STOCKS	STOCKS	:	PRODUCTION:	STOCKS	STOCKS
	:	:	FEB 1,	AS % OF	:	:	FEB 1,	AS % OF
:	:	1984	PRODUCTION:	:	:	1985	PRODUCTION	
:	:	1,000 CWT	PERCENT	:	:	1,000 CWT	PERCENT	
CALIF	:	7,790	3,500	45	:	7,280	3,000	41
COLO	:	13,950	7,100	51	:	17,225	8,900	52
IDAHO	:	85,990	48,000	56	:	86,600	47,500	55
MAINE	:	22,560	13,500	60	:	21,360	12,500	59
MICH	:	9,840	4,400	45	:	12,540	5,000	40
MINN	:	10,313	6,900	67	:	13,775	8,500	62
MONT	:	1,800	1,650	92	:	1,924	1,790	93
NEBR	:	2,025	980	48	:	2,240	1,250	56
N Y - L I	:	4,075	800	20	:	3,726	500	13
- UPSTATE	:	5,635	1,900	34	:	6,630	1,700	26
N DAK	:	20,480	10,300	50	:	20,615	10,700	52
OHIO	:	1,886	270	14	:	2,465	280	11
OREG	:	20,710	9,600	46	:	22,680	11,000	49
PA	:	4,300	1,700	40	:	5,160	2,370	46
WASH	:	54,080	22,000	41	:	56,925	20,800	37
WIS	:	18,910	6,300	33	:	21,350	7,200	34
15 STATE TOTAL	:	284,344	138,900	49	:	302,495	142,990	47

RELIABILITY OF FEBRUARY 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the February 1 stocks estimate is 3.2 percent. This means that the chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 143 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 3.2 percent or approximately 4.6 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 5.5 percent or approximately 7.9 million cwt.

The 10-year (1975-84) record of the differences between the February 1 stocks estimates and the final estimates averaged 4.08 million cwt, ranging from 0.39 million to 6.17 million cwt. During this 10-year period, the February 1 estimate has been below the final estimate 9 out of 10 years.

TABLE 4. FALL POTATOES: STOCKS BY TYPE AS PERCENT OF TOTAL STOCKS,
FEBRUARY 1, 1985, 11 MAJOR STATES

STATE	POTATO TYPES			
	REDS	WHITES	RUSSETS	TOTAL
	PERCENT			
COLO	10		1/90	100
IDAHO			1/ 2/100	100
MAINE		69	31	100
MICH 4/				
MINN	14	53	33	100
N Y		2/ 3/100		100
N DAK	16	64	20	100
OREG			1/ 2/100	100
PA		2/100		100
WASH			1/ 2/100	100
WIS	6	36	58	100
11 STATE TOTAL:	3	22	75	100

1/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF WHITES, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

2/ INCLUDES SMALL QUANTITIES OF REDS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

3/ INCLUDES SMALL AMOUNT OF RUSSETS, LESS THAN 5 PERCENT OF TOTAL.

4/ NOT PUBLISHED TO AVOID DISCLOSURE OF INDIVIDUAL OPERATIONS.

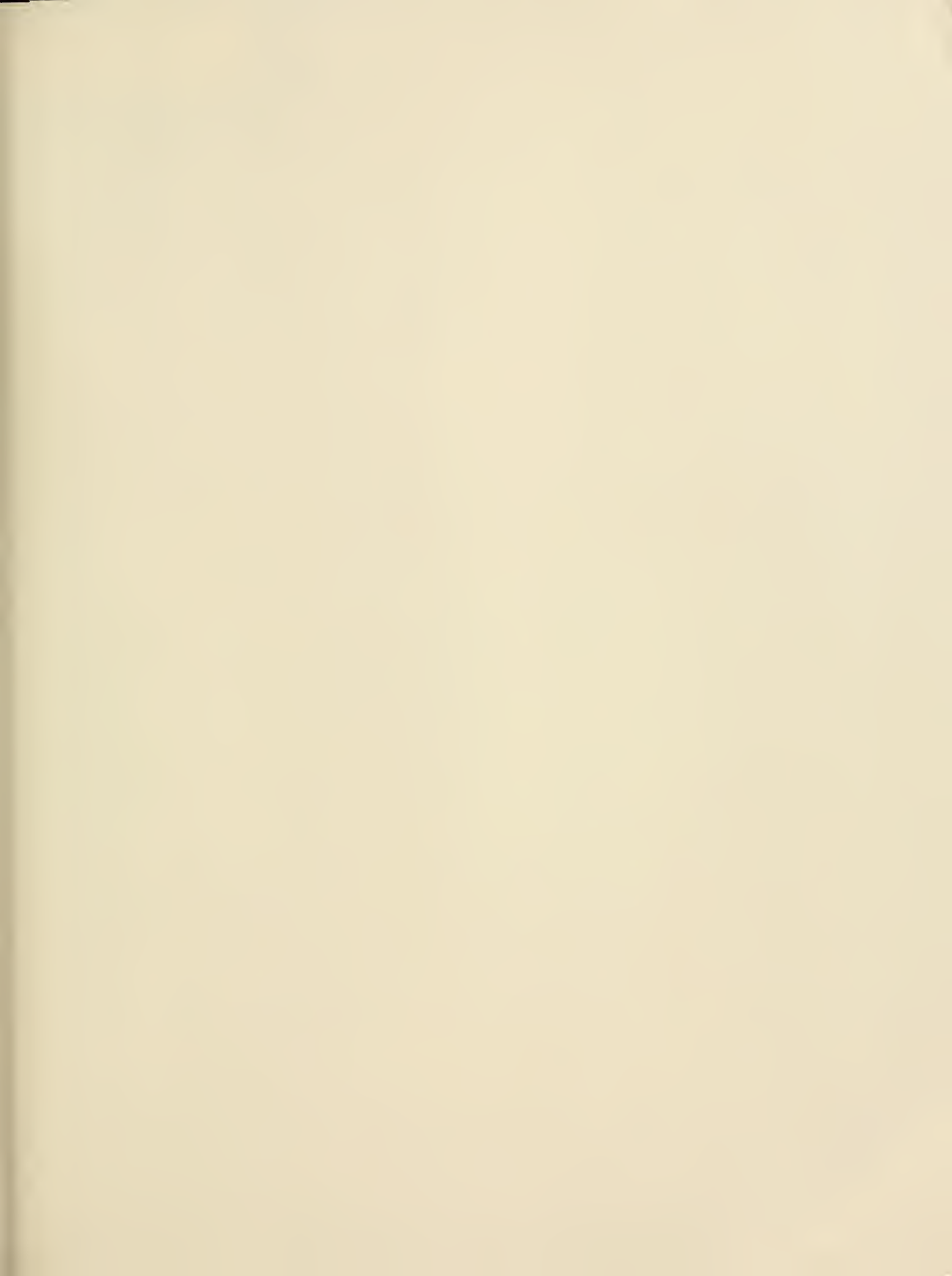
The three Eastern States had 17.1 million cwt of potatoes in storage on February 1, 1985 down 5 percent from last year, and 22 percent below 1983. Maine stocks at 12.5 million cwt were down 7 percent; New York with 2.20 million cwt was down 19 percent from last year, and Pennsylvania at 2.37 million cwt was up 39 percent.


Stocks in the six Central States totaled 32.9 million cwt on February 1, 1985, up 13 percent from last year and 7 percent above two years ago. North Dakota stocks at 10.7 million cwt gained 4 percent from last year. Minnesota storage at 8.50 million cwt was up 23 percent. Michigan and Wisconsin showed increases of 14 percent.

The six Western States had 93.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage, an increase of 1 percent from last February, but 5 percent less than two years ago. Idaho stocks totaling 47.5 million cwt were down 1 percent; while Washington's 20.8 million cwt storage was off 5 percent from last year. Oregon at 11.0 million cwt was up 15 percent. Colorado with stocks of 8.90 million cwt was up 25 percent; while California storages of 3.00 million cwt were off 14 percent.

Disappearance of potatoes in the 15 States from harvest to February 1 this year totaled 160 million cwt, a gain of 10 percent over last year and 8 percent above the same period two years ago. Shrinkage and losses were estimated at 21.5 million cwt, 20 percent ahead of last year's 17.9 million cwt.

Processing in the 8 major processing States to February 1 totaled 70.8 million cwt, up 21 percent from a year earlier. Processing during January hit 12.0 million cwt, up 15 percent from last January.





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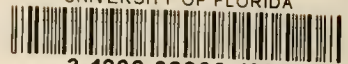
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